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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/591,880	09/05/2006	Masaaki Kato	OTAL-0004	6937
23377 7590 10/16/2008 WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP CIRA CENTRE, 12TH FLOOR 2929 ARCH STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-2891				
EXAMINER PHAM, EMILY P				
ART UNIT 2838		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 10/16/2008		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/591,880

Applicant(s)

KATO ET AL.

Examiner

EMILY PHAM

Art Unit

2838

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8-9 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 9/05/2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/11/2006
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 12/11/2006 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Miura (USP 4,595,887).

Miura (**FIG 3;** **Abstract**) discloses a semiconductor integrated circuit forming, on a semiconductor integrated circuit board by a MOS process, a pilot signal detection circuit which comprises: a detection circuit **(3)** for detecting a base band signal; a smoothing circuit **(5)** for smoothing an output signal of the detection circuit **(3)**; a first differential amplifier circuit **(1)** for differential-amplifying an output signal of the smoothing circuit **(5)**; a band gap reference voltage generation circuit **(V2)** for generating a reference voltage; a second differential amplifier **(2)** circuit for differential-amplifying the reference voltage; and an output circuit **(7)** for outputting a signal of a sum **(Abstract)** of outputs of the first **(1)** and second **(2)** differential amplifier circuits as

a signal for indicating whether or not a pilot signal level is equal to, or greater than, the reference voltage.

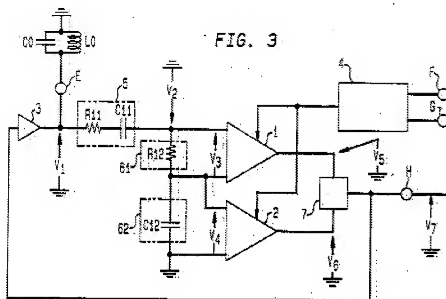


FIG. 4

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-6, 8-9 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 recites, inter alia, an offset removal circuit for retaining outputs of the first and second differential amplifier circuits as an offset cancellation voltage when the predetermined voltage is selected by the first and second semiconductor switch, and removing an offset voltage included in a signal output from the first and second differential amplifier circuit based on the offset cancellation voltage.

Claim 2 recites, inter alia, an offset removal circuit for retaining an output voltage of the current-to-voltage conversion circuit as an offset cancellation voltage when the predetermined voltage is selected by the first and second semiconductor switch and removing an offset voltage by feeding the retained offset cancellation voltage back to an input of the current-to-voltage conversion circuit.

Claim 8 recites, inter alia, an offset removal circuit for retaining outputs of the first and second differential amplifier circuits as an offset cancellation voltage when the predetermined voltage is selected by the first and second semiconductor switch, and removing an offset voltage included in a signal output from the first and second differential amplifier circuit based on the offset cancellation voltage.

The art of record does not disclose the above limitations, nor would it be obvious to modify the art of record so as to include either of the above limitations.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EMILY PHAM whose telephone number is (571)270-3046. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu (7:00AM - 6:00PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Akm Ullah can be reached on (571) 272 - 2361. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

October 2008

/Jessica Han/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2838

EP